

A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I know that we deal with a lot of important issues here in Congress, but there is probably no issue that is more personal and important to millions of moms across the country than health care. When your son or daughter is sick, there is nothing more important than making sure that they get better. And many women all across this country who are taking care of their elderly parents or in-laws are often consumed with countless tests and doctors' appointments and wrestling with insurance companies and Medicare.

As we address health care, what does every American deserve? What does every mom demand?

First is to have access to doctors and nurses you know and trust. The doctor-patient relationship is one of the most important relationships in our country, and it is really the foundation of our health care system.

Second is to protect the high quality of health care that we have enjoyed. We have been the innovators. We have been the ones that have been doing the research to cure new diseases, and we really have been the envy of the world.

Third is to reduce health care costs. This must be at the heart of reform.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats to address this issue.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITION IN VIETNAM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, I continue to be concerned about the human rights condition in Vietnam. Despite their membership in the World Trade Organization and being granted permanent normal trade relation status, Vietnam continues to deny their citizens their fundamental human rights and political liberties.

The Government of Vietnam continues to restrict Internet access and goes as far as to imprison those who would use the Internet to challenge the Communist Party.

The United States must be a leading advocate for human rights. And we must make it clear to governments like those of Vietnam that it is unacceptable to deny people their basic human rights. I hope, especially under this new administration, that Congress will be able to work together and to recommit itself to fighting for the rights of the Vietnamese people.

This weekend, our Orange County delegation will have the honor of wel-

coming the United States Ambassador to Vietnam to our community. And the delegation looks forward to continuing to work with the Department of State to make human rights a priority.

THE NATIONAL ENERGY TAX PLAN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, despite rising gas prices across the country, Democrats in Washington continue to push for a national energy tax that will make the pain at the pump even worse. Just 1 year ago, gas prices made their steady rise to over \$4 a gallon. A return to record gas prices would be especially harmful during the current economic recession. But that is not deterring Democrats from moving forward with their national energy tax plan.

Representative JOHN DINGELL, a Democrat from Michigan, said it best when he said, "nobody in this country realizes that cap-and-trade is a tax, and a great big one." Republicans in Congress realized this startling reality, and the American people are beginning to as well.

Over the past week, Republicans held energy summits in Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, and San Luis Obispo in California. These summits provide an important opportunity to explain to the American people the devastating consequences of the Democrats' national energy tax plan and to craft better energy solutions. The American people don't want the Democrats' national energy tax. They want and deserve energy independence.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING THE 2009 GRADUATES OF NORTH FOREST HIGH SCHOOL IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to support the graduating class of North Forest High School in Houston, Texas, the 2009 graduating class, a school district, the North Forest Independent School District, that suffered the ravages of Hurricane Rita, and then right on the heels of Hurricane Rita came Hurricane Ike and destroyed many of the buildings of that particular school district. Then Forestbrook High School suffered heinous acts by vandals who destroyed the school and caused the school district to have to close one of its high schools. So today the graduating class will be the merger of those two high schools, and boy have they united.

I'm honored to be their guest speaker. And because of that, Mr. Speaker, I will miss some legislative initiatives. But I rise to support the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act. I

would have voted "aye" on the rule, "aye" on final passage, and I would have voted "aye" on two amendments, Mr. GREEN and Mr. BRIGHT of Alabama. And then, as well, I would have voted "no" on the gentleman's amendment from California, Mr. ISSA.

But the main point is to recognize that I am going to salute these students because they deserve it. They've overcome adversity. Congratulations to the North Forest High School Class of 2009.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, one of the first acts of the 111th Congress was to enact the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, historic legislation to jump start our economy and create good-paying jobs.

The Recovery Act money is being allocated at a pace of almost \$1 billion a week. And I'm pleased to say that we're already seeing positive effects of the Recovery Act in my district, Pennsylvania's Third.

While times are still very difficult for many families struggling to make ends meet, we have seen a glimmer of some encouraging news in recent days. During the month of April, Erie County's unemployment rate stabilized for the first time in months. And in neighboring Crawford County, the unemployment rate actually fell. This is the result of the targeted, job-creating investments in our Nation's science, clean energy, education, health care and transportation infrastructure through the Recovery Act.

Certainly there is more work to be done. And as the Recovery Act continues to take effect, we must renew our commitment to continue to create the good-paying jobs that will stay here in the United States.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, from the Committee on Homeland Security, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-134) on the resolution (H. Res. 404) of inquiry directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives, not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, copies of documents relating to the Department of Homeland Security Intelligence Assessment titled, "Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment," which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.